7957

CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORT

county of stanislaus



The gross Agricultural Income of Stanislaus County dropped from the alltime high of \$133,890,060 in 1956 to \$128,067,512, the income in 1957. This is a decrease of \$5,822,548. Stanislaus County produces over 80 commercial crops; and because of the great diversity of crops grown, the agricultural income has been very stable. Dairy continued to be the number one industry, amounting to about one-fourth of the total income.

Fruit and nut returns were down due mostly to lower yields. This lower income is also reflected in field and truck crops.

In the summary the estimated income is down from the previous year in all items except livestock, and in nursery stock.

This report contains information on acreage, production, value and conditions of agricultural crops produced in Stanislaus County. Prices are reported on an F.O.B. basis, or as a gross return to the farmer. The gross returns should not be confused with what the farmer may retain as his net returns. Acreages of permanent crops are reported in actual bearing and non-bearing acres, while other crops are reported on a harvested acreage basis. Production is reported in units commercially used in marketing of crops. Some duplication results from reporting gross returns on feed crops and livestock sales where feed crops are grown and consumed on the same farm by livestock on that farm. The same procedure is followed each year in compiling these reports, which makes comparisons possible.

Every effort is made to make this report as nearly correct as possible; however, in some produced commodities the acreage and production must be estimated.

This report has been jointly prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Commissioner's office of the county. The Agricultural Commissioner has included the latest data of acreage on permanent crops, while the Agricultural Extension Service has figured the yields and estimated prices for the various commodities produced in the county.

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance of various agencies, such as irrigation districts, cooperatives, local business concerns, producers and others who have made this report possible.

#### FRUITS AND NUTS

Almonds - - The almond crop was rather poor in this county as was the situation over the state. Rainy weather during the blooming period prevented normal pollination. The average price was considerably below the past two years. The net effect was a very much reduced income compared to the previous year.

Apricots - - The apricot crop was slightly larger than that of 1956. This was due to a slight increase in bearing acreage and also a slight increase in tonnage per acre. The average price received was down from the previous years. More fruit was dried than the previous season and more was frozen. The interesting thing about the apricot crop was the large tonnage of the apricot pits sold as compared to that of previous seasons. This was due to a higher than normal average price.

Clingstone Peaches - - The clingstone peach crop was larger than that of 1956. This was due to an increase in acreage and an increase in tonnage per acre. Due to the large volume of clings available, a green-drop of 16 per cent held the per acre tonnage lower than what it normally would have been. The price received per ton was about the same as the previous season.

Freestone Peaches - - The production of freestone peaches is gradually on the increase. This can in part be attributed to a slight increase in net acreage. Also, most of the freestone peach trees are in their early bearing years rather than in their declining years as was the case a few seasons back. The price received from processors was considerably less than a year ago. For this reason, a much larger volume went into dried fruit where the average price was pretty good.

<u>Nectarines</u> - The volume of nectarines produced was higher than the previous season as was the acreage. Most of the nectarine orchards are very young so there will be an increase in tonnage for several seasons to come. The average price received during 1957 was only about one-half of that received during the previous year. Evidently the supply caught up with the demand rather abruptly during midseason.

<u>Walnuts</u> - - The walnut acreage and production was slightly larger than in 1956. This was due to an increase in acreage and yield per acre. Walnut blight and navel orange worm destroyed an excessive amount of nuts. The average price received was slightly higher than for the previous season. This resulted in a net increase in the value of the crop.

Minor Crops - - Olives, figs, plums, cherries and pears - - These are minor crops in the county so have little effect on net income. There will probably be an increase in the pear, olive, plum and cherry acreage. The fig acreage will probably continue to decline.

Grapes - - Many vineyards in the county were affected by a delayed leafing out in the spring. Most noticeable were the Grenache. As the season progressed, the wine grapes recovered so that their yields were almost normal. However, the Thompsons had loose stringy bunches and in many instances no set at all so that many growers reported yields down 75 per cent from 1956. As grape yields were down over the entire state, prices received were good.

Boysenberries - - The boysenberries did not leaf out normally this year. There was also a great deal of dieback believed to be caused by the climate. As a result of this dieback, the yield was down 1/3 from the year previous. The price was the same as last year due to large supplies of competing products.

<u>Strawberries</u> - Yields were down in many fields due to rotting caused by the late spring rains. The price was very poor to start and although it strengthened slightly, a large percentage of the county acreage was removed because the growers did not feel that the price justified further outlay.

## FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa - - Acreage dropped more than 20 per cent, mainly because the growers were searching for "high return" crops. Yields were down slightly as spotted alfalfa aphid damage on the Westside was fairly heavy. With slightly lower prices the net income was reduced considerably. 1958 acreage may be down again but the price outlook continues to be fairly good.

Beans - Total acres increased slightly, although there was some shifting between varieties. Large Limas and Blackeyes increased while baby limas and other varieties were down. October rains caused light to heavy losses in yield, heavy cleaning costs in large limas and red kidneys, and a reduction in quality in many cases. In spite of the rain, average yields were improved but prices were generally lower and total income was down. Outlook for 1958 indicates possibility of continued low prices for most varieties and little change in acreage.

Grain - Acreages were up a little and grain yields were appreciably better. Yields and quality in the Montpellier area were above average. Milo acreage increased about 300 per cent. In many cases the income was not enough to justify this crop on high value land. Prices of all grains, except for rice and wheat, were down. Rice acreage decreased considerably as over half of the county's allotment was placed in the Soil Bank.

Field Corn - Acreage planted for silage increased again as self-feeding silos and machinery made the handling of this crop more practical. Grain acreage almost doubled again but yields were down slightly. Many farmers growing corn as a cash grain crop were disappointed because of the low income per acre. Acreage in silage will probably go up again in 1958 but the grain acreage may go down a little. Outlook for 1958 is for prices that will be about the same or slightly lower.

<u>Sudangrass</u> - - Acreage increased considerably as dairymen continued to make better use of this pasture crop in their summer-feeding program.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Tomatoes - - The nine fresh market tomato shippers in Stanislaus County had probably the worst year since the industry started. Prices were unsatisfactory during almost the whole shipping season.

High temperatures during the blooming period caused the flowers to drop for several weeks destroying practically the entire early fruit set. As the temperatures moderated, fruit finally set enough to provide a reasonably good crop of small fruit. There was a wide range of variety response to these conditions with some minor varieties doing very well.

The rains came early and caused thousands of dollars of damage to the canning crop and especially to the fresh tomato crop.

<u>Watermelons</u> - - Watermelon acreage was down in 1957. Acreage potential yield was about normal. Prices started out extremely high, came down steadily as the bulk of the crop came on. During the latter part of the season prices reached a point where it was unprofitable to harvest the crop and several hundred tons remained in the field.

Honeydews and Mixed Melons - The acreage was about the same as in 1956 with an increase in cantaloupes. The cantaloupe deal was quite satisfactory throughout the season. Crenshaws, Casabas and Persians made some money for the grower. Honeydews were satisfactory until the rains came and then practically every carload lost money for the producers. The melon deal would have been profitable if operations had stopped when the first rains came.

<u>Peas</u> - Pea acreage took a slight slump. Prices were slightly higher, although the yield varied considerably from field to field. The average yield was quite good.

Spinach - - Spinach acreage remains quite steady because the entire crop is contracted. Yield was up on recoverable spinach. This was especially true when the crop was frozen because of the large increase of acreage in Califlay which is immune to Downy mildew.

Green Lima Beans - - Acreage was down just slightly and prices remained about the same as in 1956. Considerably more effort was put into the controlling of insects and a better job was done. The quality of beans were higher in 1957 than in some previous years.

Onions - - About half the onion acreage is grown under contract and resulted in a rather stable income for the growers. Free onions hit a fair market and made money for the grower in spite of heavy weeding costs. Acreage was up 130 bags to the acre over the 1956 crop. Several relatively small acreages of onions were harvested for seed and green onions. Both of these crops, in spite of the high cost of labor did very well on an acreage basis.

Bell Peppers - - Pepper acreage increased approximately 70 acres in Stanislaus County. The yield was more than double, reaching the high average of 674 30-pound lugs to the acre. The price was down from 1956 but still made money because of the high yield.

Carrots - - A condition that occasionally arises in the fresh vegetable industry is exemplified by the carrot deal in 1956. Carrots were contracted for approximately twenty dollars a ton. A shortage of carrots has been in evidence for six or seven months. Because of this shortage, free carrots went to \$120.00 a ton.

Lettuce - - The lettuce acreage has gradually increased to the point where 2200 acres were grown with an average yield of 200 crates to the acre.

Minor Vegetable Crops - - The acreage of minor vegetables increased from 1348 acres in 1956 to 1878 acres in 1957. There was an extremely wide variation in income per acre in this group but was very satisfactory in most instances.

Sugar Beets - Sugar beet yield on the 1957 fall-harvested crop increased 1-1/10 ton per acre over the 1956 crop. The yield was heavy but the sugar content was down slightly. A small acreage is always harvested in the spring which tends to increase the average tonnage. The actual price for sugar beets per ton is worked out on a formula involving yield, per cent of sugar and the selling price of the refined product up to the following July first; therefore, the income in this publication is always an estimate.

## SEED PRODUCTION

<u>Seed Production</u> - - Certified acreage decreased because of the unfavorable yields during the past two years, and yields were again low because of damaging rains in October. Prices were down resulting in a low income per acre. Certified acreage will probably be lower in 1958.

Common alfalfa acreage decreased greatly because of low demand. Yields were down because of the rain and prices were also much lower.

Red Clover - - The acreage in Red Clover is now sufficiently great to report separately. Yields and prices have been satisfactory, making it a profitable crop for careful growers who are willing to do the thorough job which is required to raise this crop.

### LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND DAIRYING

Beef Cattle - - Fed cattle numbers were about the same this year as last, despite the fact that one feed lot was entirely closed down in the county. Most of the other feed lots all fed a few more cattle this year.

Swine - - Hog numbers were down this year with the average price figures lower than last year.

Sheep - - Number of range bands still the same as last year; however, the number of sheep fed out is down as well as the number of feeders. The wool clip was definitely down also.

Lot price for range about the same as last year. Range - same figures as last year.

Chicken Production - - Egg production increased about six per cent in 1957, due to present operators expanding. Very few new operations started. The average price per dozen eggs dropped 3.5¢, thus reducing the total income by \$370,000. Chicken meat sold at 3.3¢ per pound less than in 1956. Hatching eggs held about even.

Turkey Production - - Meat production increased about 10 per cent in 1957, sold for 4.6¢ less per pounds, thus showing \$200,000 less gross income. Hatching eggs were up almost 20 per cent with the egg price only slightly less, raising the gross egg income by \$209,000. On the basis of this, total turkey income held about even. Egg production was actually higher but many could not be sold and were, therefore, broken out at 30¢ per dozen.

Fryer Production - - Total production held about even but the price dropped about  $6\phi$  per pound. There were less fryer operators, but they leased or rented their building to others. Only one grower expanded in 1957.

The over-all poultry picture shows the same trend as in 1956. More production sold at a lower price per unit, thus yielding about \$400,000 less gross income. The total poultry income for 1957 was \$13,342,742.

Dairying - Dairying continues to be the number one industry in the county, and approximately 25 per cent of the total income comes from the dairy industry. During the past year there has been a slight increase in the percentage of milk which has been produced for market milk purposes. The income from dairying did not vary greatly from 1956, but the make-up of the industry did change. Herds have increased about eight per cent in size, with many of the smaller herds going out of business. This latter change is due largely to the fact that small herds were not able to carry the capital outlay necessary for Grade A production. The milk from market milk facilities still exceeds the outlets for this class of milk.

Irrigated Pasture - - The acreage of irrigated pasture has decreased slightly and this has been the trend for a number of years. The main reason for this has been that the practice of rotating irrigated pastures with row crops has increased and it greatly improves the pasture to reseed them.

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# ACREAGE ESTIMATES OF STANISLAUS COUNTY FRUIT AND NUT CROPS 1957

by Stanislaus County Department of Agriculture Milo M. Schrock, Agricultural Commissioner

CROP	BEARING ACRES	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS Drake	205	_
IXL	- 385 - 215	1
Jordanola	- 375	25
Mission	<b>- ,</b> 00 -	156
NePlus Ultra	703	
Nonpareil	2,700	
Other Almonds	0.7	
TOTAL ALMONDS	6,636	182
APRICOTS		
Blenheim - Royal		Planting has been
Moorpark - Hemskirk Tilton	_	extra heavy during
Other Varieties	-,	the past 2 years. A new acreage sur-
TOTAL APRICOTS	<del></del>	vey is now being
	.,	conducted but
CHERRIES		these figures will
Bing Royal Ann	0	not be available
Tartarian		until the 1958
Other Varieties		report.
TOTAL CHERRIES	<u>—</u>	Bearing acreage
		figures are nearly
FIGS		accurate except
Black	- 19	for pullouts of
Calimyrna	₩	the past six months that should not be
TOTAL FIGS	<del></del>	tabulated until the
		1958 report.
GRAPES, RAISIN		
Muscat	- 50	
Thompson Seedless		
Zante Currant TOTAL RAISIN VARIETIES		
	6,157	
GRAPES, TABLE	_	
Concord	<del>-</del>	
Malaga		
Red Malaga		
Ribier		
Tokay	- 22	
Other Table Varieties		
TOTAL TABLE VARIETIES	858	

CROP	BEARING ACRES	NON DRADTIL
GRAPES, WINE	DIRICING ACRES	NON-BEARING
Alicante Bouschet	36 4,607 250 994 532 427 7 371	
TOTAL ALL GRAPES  NECTARINES  Gower	15,633 11 49 39 184	
OLIVES  Mission	245 144 6 395	
PEACHES, CLING  Andora	1,674 1,392 355	
PEACHES, FREESTONE  Early Elberta	129	

CROP	BEARING ACRES	NON-BEARING
PEARS	16	
PECANS	25	
PERSIMMONS	10	
PLUMS	46	
POMEGRANATES -		
Concord	2,715 3,614 938 679 1,801 22 674 108	
BLACK WALNUTS	- 431 <sup>-</sup>	
TOTAL ALL	- 56,111	182

## FRUITS, GRAPES AND NUTS

	Bearing		Production	ĺ	. Value	
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Tota1	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Almonds	6,638	775	2,575	.Ton	\$ 492.00	\$1,266,900
Apricots	1,800	6.99	12,582*			1,158,480*
(Canned			10,475	Ton	90.00	942,750)
(Dried	1,740 gr	een	232 Dry	Ton	600.00	139,200)
(Frozen			352	Ton	90.00	31,680)
(By-produ	ncts		.15	Ton	90.00	1,350)
(Apricot	pits - wet		870	Ton	50.00	43,500)
Peaches, Cl:	ings 17,057	11.5	195,721*	Ton		12,165,775*
(Canned			191,766	Ton	62.50	11,985,375)
(Dried -	715 (green	ton)	110	Ton	260.00	28,600)
(Spiced			3,040	Ton	45.00	136,800)
(Fresh			200	Ton	75.00	15,000)
Peaches, Fr	eestone 2,9	29 13.2	38,735*	Ton		1,961,540*
(Canned			24,182	Ton	45.00	1,088,190)
(Dried -	- 11,400 (gre	en ton)	1,900	Ton	380.00	722,000)
(Shipped	i		600	Ton	40.00	24,000)
(Frozen			2,493	Ton	50.00	124,650)
(By-prod	ducts		60	Ton	45.00	2,700)
Nectarines	283	6.06	1,715		69.00	118,335
Cherries	62	1.42	88*	Ton		26,070*
(Canned	. & processed		66	Ton	240.00	15,840)
(Shippe	d & sold fre	sh	22	Ton	465.00	10,230)
Plums	46	5.6	257	Ton	70.00	17,990

<sup>\*</sup>Accumulated Total

## FRUITS, GRAPES AND NUTS

	Bearing		Production		F.O.B.	Value
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value
Olives	395	.39	153*	Ton		\$ 10,730*
(Oil			151	Ton	\$ 70.00	10,570)
(Pickling			2	Ton	80.00	160)
Figs - Canned	& Shipped		35	Ton	100.00	3,500
Walnuts	10,661	1,090#/A	5,805	Ton	480.00	2,786,400
Black Waln	uts		1,560 sacks	5	1.00	1,560
Misc. Fruit	104			Acre	250.00	26,000
Boysenberries	1,250	3.88				880,337*
(Canned			1,784,577	Lbs.	.095	169,535)
(Wine			102,000	Lbs.	.095	9,690)
(Frozen &	Shipped Fre	sh	7,380,127	Lbs.	.095	701,112)
Strawberries (1) 365 ac	1,006 <sup>(1)</sup> cres pulled	after first	6,398,462 harvest; there	Lbs. fore no	.08 average was	511,877 shown in report.
Grapes				(To	otal All Grap	es - \$5,187,139)
Wine	8,618	7.9	68,148*	Ton		2,950,686
(Winery			61,374	Ton	43.00	2,639,082)
(Shippe	d		6,774	Ton	46.00	311,604)
Raisin &	Table 7,015	6.5	45,597*	Ton		2,236,453
(Golden	Raisin		4,300	Ton	45.00	193,500)
(Canned			1,000	Ton	60.00	60,000)
(Shippe	d		400	Ton	70.00	28,000)
(Wine	57,864	-	39,897	Ton	49.00	1,954,953) \$ 26,122,633
Nursery Stoc	:k		290* Bea	aring ac	creage	1,784,679
(Vegetab) (Ornament	as Fruits and e plants al plants rry plants	d Nuts	60 7 213 10	5,775, 3,467,	,000 plants ,600 plants ,299 plants ,000 plants	433,950) 184,137) 1,066,592) 100,000)
** commula + o	v πo+al		_0.5			

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KIND		AMOUNT	PER UNIT		VALUE
Cows - BF in	Mfg. milk	11,562,000 lbs. 18,777,000 lbs.	\$ 1.18 per lb85 per lb.	\$13,643,160 15,960,450 1,551,500	31,155,110*
Miscellaneous	<b>.</b>				10,000
Beef Cattle Sheep	fleshy feed 30,000 fed o	r slaughter or	140.00 head 203.00 head 220.00 head	1,400,000 4,466,000 6,600,000 420,000	12,886,000*
Lambs Ewes		ers @ 19¢/# & milk fat @ 21¢/#		19,950 546,000 9,720	
Wool		(does not include ve payment)	.59 av. price/	# <u>77,495</u>	653,165*
Swine	8,000		32.00 head	256,000	256,000
Horses & Mules	200		90.00 head	18,000	18,000
<u>Honey</u> - 21,000	hives, 64 lb	s. per hive	$11\frac{1}{2}\phi$ per lb.	154,560	
Wax -	22,400 lbs.		.56 per lb.	12,544	167,104*
Chicken Eggs -	Commercial	13,650,000 doz.	.35 $\frac{1}{2}$ per doz.	4,845,750	
Chicken Eggs -	Hatching	1,630,000 doz.	.75 per doz.	1,222,500	
Chicken Meat H	lens	788,000 @ 4½	# 10.7¢	379,422	6,447,672*
Turkey Eggs -	Hatching	4,162,000 eggs	$.26\frac{1}{2}$ per egg	1,102,930	
Turkey Meat		1,067,000 @ 20	# 21.4¢	4,566,760	5,669,690*
Commercial Fry	gers	1,900,000 @ 3#	19.4¢ per 1b.	1,105,800	1,105,800
Rabbits - Fry	ers	99,000 @ 4#	.23 per 1b.	91,080	
Breeding sto	ock	5,500	4.00 each	22,000	
Skins, fert	ilizer & worm	s		6,500	119,580*
	<b>.</b>		.,		58,488,121

FIELD CROPS

		P:	roduction		F.O.B. Value		
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Value	
Beans, Dry							
Blackeyes	13,000	15.0	195,000	Cwt.	\$ 5.70	\$ 1,111,500	
Baby Limas	4,500	24.0	108,000	Cwt.	6.00	648,000	
Large Limas	9,500	23.5	223,250	Cwt.	10,00	2,232,500	
Other Varieties	8,000	16.0	128,000	Cwt.	7.75	992,000	
Bean Straw							
Blackeye	4,500	0.8	3,600	Ton	10.00	36,000	
Lima Bean & Pea	-		•			•	
Silage	7,000	4.0	28,000	Ton	•50	14,00	
Grain							
Barley	70,000	16.0	1,120,000	Cwt.	2.15	2,408,00	
Corn, Grain	9,700	28.0	271,600	Cwt.	2.40	651,84	
Corn, Silage	20,000	12.0	240,000	Ton	4.25	1,020,00	
Grain Sorghums	4,600	25.0	115,000	Cwt.	2.20	253,00	
Oats	11,000	15.0	165,000	Cwt.	2.20	363,00	
Rice	960	32.0	30,720	Cwt.	4.55	139,77	
Wheat			9,825		3.75	36,84	
wited r	655	15.0	9,040	Cwt.	3./3	30,04	
Hay	EE E00	6.4	9 E F : <b>9</b> O O	m	20.00	7 104 00	
Alfalfa	55,500	6.4	355,200	Ton	20.00	7,104,00	
Grain	27,000	1.7	45,900	Ton	19.00	872,10	
Wild	2,500	0.7	1,750	Ton	17,50	30,62	
Grain Straw	7,000	0.7	4,900	Ton	9,00	44,10	
Sugar Beets	1,472	26.1	38,419	Ton	13.65	524,41	
Pasture Irrigated (Ladino)	88,000			Acre	45.00	3,960,00	
Range	250,000		0.000	Acre	5.00	1,250,00	
	-				1.50	25,50	
Stubble	17,000			Acre		144,00	
Sudan	4,800		<b></b>	Acre	30.00	144,00	
Miscellaneous							
Field Crops	1,600			Acre	100.00	160,00	
Government Conservation	n						
Program Program						149,00	
<del>_</del>							

618,287 \$24,264,004

## TRUCK CROPS (VEGETABLES)

	<u></u>	P:	roduction		F.O.B.	Value
Crop	Acreage	Per Acre	Total	Unit Per	r Unit	Value
Lima Beans						
(Processing)	7,890	2,300	18,147,000	Lbs.	<b>.</b> 07.	\$1,270,290
Melons						
Cantaloupes	500	180	90,000	90# Crates	3.25	292,500
Honeydews	2,900	350	1,015,000	40# Crates	1.75	1,776,250
Watermelons	1,700	9	15,300	Ton	20.00	306,000
Other Melons	1,012	300	303,600	40# Crates	1.80	546,480
Peas	3,880	1.9	7,372	Ton	87.00	641,364
Spinach	1,884	8.3	15,637	Ton	22.50	351,833
Sweet Potatoes	527	128	67,456	50# Baskets	4.50	303,552
Tomatoes						
Processing)	14,000	17.44	140,583	Ton	22.50	3,163,118
Shipping )	21,000	2, 422	1,920,000	Lug	2.10	4,032,000
Carrots	650	24	15,600	Ton	35.00	546,000
Onions	520	780	405,600	50# Bushel	1.90	770,640
Peppers	436	674	293,864	30# Lug	1.85	543,648
Lettuce	2,250	200	450,000	48# Crates	1.75	787,500
Other Vegetables	1,878					393,000
<u>-</u>	40,027					\$15,724,175
		SEED CRO	P PRODUCTION			
Alfalfa						
Certified	8,100	450	3,645,000	Lbs.	.28	1,020,600
Common	2,000	475	950,000		.18	171,000
Red Clover	950	600	570,000	_	.29	165,300
Peas	400	13.5	5,400	Cwt.	5.00	27,000
Miscellaneous	- 9 000				150.00	300,000
Field & Veg. Crop	s 2,000				100.00	·
	13,450					\$1,683,900

## \* <u>SUMMARY</u> \*

ITEM	ACREAGE	ESTIMATED VALUE
Fruit, Grapes, Nuts and Berries	57,864	\$ 26,122,633
Field Crops	618,287	24,264,004
Truck Crops (Vegetables)	40,027	15,724,175
Livestock and Poultry		58,488,121
Nursery Stock	290	1,784,679
Seed Crop Production	13,450	1,683,900 \$ 128,067,512